July 30, 1834

I am traveling with my parents and my elder sister, Caroline, along the Santa Fe Trail in hopes of reaching Santa Fe, New Mexico. Today, we started out in Diamond Spring and it was sweltering hot. We rose at the crack of dawn to eat our breakfast of bacon and dried fruit before getting on our way. At about six A.M., we began traveling over the Kansas prairies. One small girl belongin to a diffrent family got trampled by a herd of passing buffalos a few hours later. Unfortunately, Mama couldn’t save her with her nursing skills so we said a prayer and kept going. I enjoyed watching the wild horses and cows grazing in a nearby medow as we passed, cause it reminded me of back home in Missouri where there were plenty of animals around. Pa drew a map last night of the roote we will be taken and he said we will see many more wild animals throughout the trip.

At noon, we stopped for a quick lunch while Pa and the other men discussed travel plans. We had bacon and coffee again, but I was more intrested in what the men were talkin about. Mama told me to help her with feeding the horses so I couldn’t listen at the moment. We began again a little bit later and not long after ran into a few Indians! I was nervous about weather they would be our frends or not, but I was also quite fasscinated. They agreed to let us pass over their land if we traded sumthing with them. They gave us a horse to replace the one that had just died in our train and we gave them a rifle, gun powder, and some of our heavy ropes. The day wore on and on and we finally set up camp for the night at Fort Zarah when the sun was setting. We traveled a real long way today and I am very tired.

By Lucy Cavanaugh